DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D. ZACHARY DATE 2/18/83
PROGRAM REVIEW: DATE
TS AUTH: EXEMPT(E)
EMBOSSED EX:
DECLASSIFY:
RELEASE B: E.O. 12356 PA: 552.6(b)(6)
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

For AV files 552(6)(6)

ENCL

March 2, 1961

Dear Senator Keating:

I have received

~~Thank you for~~ your communication of February 20, 1961 which requested a report concerning the possibility that sabotage caused the unfortunate accident suffered by the Boeing 707 aircraft operated by Sabena Belgian World Airlines at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

The investigation of this accident has been undertaken by the Service des Materiels de Vol (SMV), an official agency of the Belgian Government. Representatives of the Boeing Airplane Company, who built the aircraft involved in this accident, and officials of Sabena Belgian World Airlines are participating in the accident investigation. In addition to these interested parties, a two-man team, headed by a professor in aerodynamics at Liege University, is participating in the investigation to represent the disinterested element. Although the probable cause of the accident has not yet been determined by the investigators, investigation of this accident comes under the jurisdiction of the Belgian Government and the Department is confident that an unbiased and thorough investigation will be conducted.

Our Embassy at Brussels has been requested to keep the Department informed of all developments in the investigation. Any information which is received by the Department will be passed immediately to the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency.

I hope that the above information will prove helpful to you. If the Department can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

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SECTION 552 (b)(6)(6)

Enclosure:

[redacted] Retained on original at request of Senator

Brooks Hays
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Kenneth B. Keating,
United States Senate.

TRC:AVS:GPVarros:ams 2/28/61 AV - Mr. Snowdon TRC -
L/E - Mr. Bilder (draft)
WB - Mr. Miller - (draft)